

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-04 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15

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P 271800Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6809

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03347

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ARTICLE BY THE SECRETARY ON
GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE NUMEROUS BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS OF THE FRG IS A SPECIAL SERIES OF THE MAGAZINE PRODUCED BY INTER NATIONES, A CULTURAL OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, A SERIES DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL. THE THREE ISSUES TO DATE HAVE CARRIED ARTICLES BY PRESIDENT SCHEEL, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND, MINISTER GENSCHER, AND A FUTURE ISSUE WILL HAVE AN ARTICLE BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE EDITOR OF "200 YEARS USA" HAS APPROPRIATELY ASKED FOR AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE BY THE SECRETARY ON THE SUBJECT OF GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BICENTENNIAL.

2. WE RECOMMEND A FAVORABLE REPLY AND SUBMIT A DRAFT BASED ON REMARKS MADE BY THE SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT TO FUERTH JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS. PROMPT APPROVAL WILL BE APPRECIATED SINCE THE PRINTING DATE IS MARCH 3.

BEGIN TEXT, "ONE CANNOT HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY THE SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT THAT THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL HAS EVOKED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. OUR EMBASSY IN BONN HAS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WILL BE MORE THAN 3,000 SEPARATE EVENTS CELE-
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BRATING THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN

REVOLUTION. THESE EVENTS, SCHEDULED BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND BY MANY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS, AND CHARACTERIZED BY ENTHUSIASM ATTEST TO THE DEPTH OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND ILLUSTRATE IN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL WAY THE CLOSENESS OF THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES AS WELL AS OUR GOVERNMENTS.

"I KNOW THAT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SEEMS A SHORT ONE TO MANY PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY WHEN PLACED IN THE CONTEXT OF MUCH OLDER CULTURES, SUCH AS THAT IN GERMANY. NONETHELESS, THE UNITED STATES TODAY HAS THE OLDEST EXISTING REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AND ONE CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THAT DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR WE TAKE SPECIAL PRIDE IN THAT FACT. I SHOULD BE QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PRIDE HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE GOVERNMENTS OF MEN, AND THAT MAN HAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE MISTAKES AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO RISE TO GREAT HEIGHTS. WE HAVE DONE BOTH.

"ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICANS THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY HAS BEEN A CAPACITY FOR SELF CRITICISM. WE VENTURED INTO PERIODS OF ROMANTICISM AND NATIONALISM, ESPECIALLY DURING THE 19TH CENTURY, WHEN IT WAS POPULAR TO ESPOUSE SUCH CONCEPTS AS "MANIFEST DESTINY" AND TO RUMINATE OVER THE FUTURE GREAT ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE WORLD STATE. BUT EVEN THIS PERIOD WAS NOT WITHOUT A NUMBER OF VERY VOCAL SKEPTICS, MEN WHO SUBJECTED OUR INSTITUTIONS TO SCRUTINY, SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR SOCIETY, PROMOTE A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE AND, ABOVE ALL, GUARANTEE THE MAINTENANCE OF FREEDOM AND PEACE. IT IS NATURAL THAT WE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED COMPLETELY IN ATTAINING THESE GREAT GOALS, BUT IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT WE HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT ABANDON OUR ATTEMPTS TO REACH THEM.

"OUR PEOPLES HAVE WITNESSED, AND SHOULD NEVER PERMIT THEMSELVES TO FORGET, THE HOSTILITY AND BRUTALITY THAT ARE STILL AT LARGE IN THE MODERN WORLD. WE LIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN AN ERA WHEN THERE ARE FEW TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO MAN'S ACHIEVING HIS GREATEST HOPES, BUT IT IS ALSO AN ERA WHEN ALL MEN STAND IN THE SHADOW OF NUCLEAR CATAclysm. THE DESTINIES OF THE SOME 150 SOVEREIGN NATIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY ARE INELUCTABLY LINKED BY THE COMMON DESIRE TO SURVIVE, AND NO COUNTRY, NO PEOPLE, CAN AFFORD TO DIVORCE ITSELF FROM THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. THE CONCEPT OF INTER-

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6810

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DEPENDENCE BEARS MORE VALIDITY TODAY THAN AT ANY TIME
IN HISTORY. IT IS OUR COMMON CHALLENGE TO CONTRIBUTE
TO THE BUILDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE OF
RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL KEEP ALL NATIONS SECURE,
PROMOTE HABITS OF RESTRAINT AND MODERATION IN THE
CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND ENCOURAGE
EFFORTS TOWARD ATTAINING FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND PEACE.

" IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE EXAMPLE THAT HAS BEEN SET
BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE PAST 30 YEARS IN PURSUIT
OF THESE GOALS HAS BEEN A MODEL WORTH EMULATION
ELSEWHERE. OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE MOVED FROM BITTER
CONFLICT TO PEACE, FROM PEACE TO RECONCILIATION AND
FROM RECONCILIATION TO FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.
THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE STRONG
TIES FORGED DURING THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE TO
GROW AND FLOURISH. WE HAVE BEEN LEADERS TOGETHER
IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE--PEACE IN EUROPE AND IN THE
WORLD, AND WILL REMAIN SO.

"I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE. THE
AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO
REAFFIRM OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO CONTINUE ALONG THIS
ROUTE, UNDAUNTED AND UNSWERVING.

"I AM PROUD TO BE ONE OF THE MANY MILLIONS OF GERMANS
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WHO EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES, ONE OF THE FEW
COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHERE AN ADOPTED SON HAS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO ASSUME THE POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY
AND SERVICE THAT I HAVE ENJOYED. OUR HISTORY BOOKS
ARE REplete WITH THE NAMES OF OTHER GERMANS WHO HAVE
SERVED THE AMERICAN NATION AND WHO HAVE MADE MEANING-
FUL CONTRIBUTIONS IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIETY AND
CULTURE. THERE WILL BE MORE IN THE FUTURE. AS WE
ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY THERE IS EVERY REASON TO
BELIEVE THAT GERMANS AND AMERICANS ARE MORE AWARE
OF THEIR CLOSENESS THAN EVER BEFORE, AND, MORE IM-
PORTANT, ARE CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY TO NURTURE
THIS CLOSENESS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLES."
HILLENBRAND

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